

Wyoming Institute
Wyoming, Pennsylvania
Lebanon Co.

HABS No. Pa-29

HABS
PA.

40-WYOM,

2-

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. Pa-2

Historic American Buildings Survey
Thomas H. Atherton, District Officer
139 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

HA85
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WYOMING INSTITUTE, WYOMING, PENNSYLVANIA
Pa-29

The first interest of the settlers was their church, the second their schools. In 1768 the Susquehanna Company set aside in each certified township, three full shares or rights for the maintenance of a gospel minister and the schools.

This loyalty to schools bore a great fruit in Pennsylvania. The Common School Law of 1834 adopted many of the principles of the Connecticut Common School System on which the settlers organized their schools. Luzerne County adopted this Act of 1834, established schools, levied taxes to support them and the taxes were paid.

Between the common schools and the colleges was a yawning chasm. To bridge this other educational institutions: academies, institutes, Seminaries under lay or religious control were established. They were comparable to our present high and preparatory schools.

In 1849 the Luzerne Presbytery appointed a committee to erect a suitable building for their new institute, to cost not more than \$3000. Their architect, Mr. Fell, saved them money.

The non sectarian, coeducational Wyoming Institute opened, May 1, 1849.

Without endowment the institute fell into financial difficulties. In 1871 the Presbytery closed the school. J. W. Crawford maintained a school for one year, then gave it up. 1871 was a bad year. The school was closed, the property put at Sheriff's Sale. However money was raised to clear the debt. The Presbytery made another attempt but finally closed the school in 1872.

The Wyoming Presbyterian Church took over the building for its Sunday School and other activities. In 1913 the Presbytery deeded the property to the Church. With small class rooms, the building was not suited to its new uses. In 1925 two wings were added, the partitions were removed. Now Wyoming has a fine building adequate for its needs and, as well the satisfaction of having preserved one of the fine early buildings in the valley.

Revised History
Author.

Approved,

District Officer. *Thomas H. Atkinson*

Rev. Sept. 20. '38 - T.H.